



## Corrections Standards Authority

Matthew Cate, Secretary

Kurt O. Wilson, Executive Director

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Fact Sheet

[www.cdcr.ca.gov](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov)

### DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT



#### GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Partner with local jurisdictions

**WHAT IS DMC:** Research has shown that ethnic minorities, both juveniles and adults, are overrepresented in the justice system, compared to their representation in the general population. Since the 1980s, this awareness has led to federal- and state-initiated efforts to better understand what factors contribute to this disproportionate representation and to develop reduction strategies.

**WHAT DOES DMC MEAN TO CALIFORNIA?** Under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, states must achieve and maintain compliance with four core protections in order to be eligible to participate in the Formula Grants Program, which provides funds in support of state and local efforts in the areas of delinquency prevention and intervention as well as juvenile justice system improvements. Among these requirements is the reduction of disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system.

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Enhance CSA and stakeholder knowledge

#### **WHAT STEPS DOES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECOMMEND TO STATES FOR MEETING THE DMC REQUIREMENT?**

The federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, which administers the Formula Grants Program, recommends that states take five basic steps in their efforts to reduce DMC: Identification: Determine the extent, if any, to which DMC exists; Assessment: Assess the reasons for DMC (and its implications); Intervention: Develop and implement intervention strategies to address these identified reasons; Evaluation: Evaluate the effectiveness of the chosen intervention strategies; and Monitoring: Track changes in DMC trends and adjust intervention strategies as needed.

**HOW DOES CSA RESPOND TO DMC:** Using a multi-faceted approach of direct service, education, and support, California strives to eliminate the overrepresentation of youth of color coming into contact with the juvenile justice system. Toward that end, the DMC statewide initiative follows three tracks: direct service through the Enhanced DMC-Technical Assistance Project (TAP) grants; education/awareness through our implementation of educational mandates for grantees and stakeholders; and support through both resources and advocacy.

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Ensure progress

**MEASURING DMC:** To facilitate the ability of states and local jurisdictions to determine if overrepresentation exists, the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has provided a comparison calculation tool for examining DMC. This tool, called the Relative Rate Index (RRI), may be used to examine the cumulative effects of the juvenile justice system processing in localities and as a data driven impetus for policy changes, better service delivery and cost-efficient governmental practices. In California, African American youth are overrepresented in juvenile detention facilities. In 2003, African American youth represented 8.2% of the overall youth population, but 25% of youth in detention.

### NEWS/OPPORTUNITIES

- The proposed 2008 Justice Integrity Act establishes a pilot program within the Justice Department to identify and eliminate unjustified disparities in the administration of justice.
- The Casey Family Programs have launched an initiative focused on reducing disproportionality and disparities in outcomes for children of color in the child welfare system through several public, private and non-profit partnerships in California. The partners in this work include the California Department of Social Services, the Casey Family Programs, as well as CSA and other stakeholders.

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#### LOCAL EFFORTS:

**ENHANCED DMC-TAP GRANTS:** Funds made available through this program support probation departments in understanding and identifying DMC in hopes of better equipping these agencies with the tools and resources needed to provide leadership in developing and/or strengthening community-based DMC reduction activities. A total of \$2.625 million is available over the course of three years for the following five counties to participate in the project: **Contra Costa, San Diego, Los Angeles, Alameda and Santa Cruz.**

**ENHANCED DMC PROCESS EVALUATION:** In tandem with the Enhanced DMC-TAP grant is the Process Evaluation being conducted by Mark Morris Associates, which will assist in determining strengths and challenges related to the process. The purpose of the process evaluation is to assist the CSA in planning future DMC activities by identifying the operational strengths and limitations of the first two phases of the Enhanced DMC-TAP, both of which represent a pioneering approach to addressing DMC.

**TITLE V COMMUNITY PREVENTION GRANTS FUNDING:** A competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) will be offered to the five Enhanced DMC-TAP counties for the purpose of subcontracting with a school district to support assessment and modification of disciplinary structures that negatively impact overrepresentation of youth of color. The development of this RFP is in its infancy stage however, the hope is that the Title V funding will assist in identifying DMC "best practices" particular to schools.

#### Direct Service

#### STATEWIDE EFFORTS:

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CDE):** The purpose of the partnership between CSA and CDE is to provide DMC training for school districts through their School Attendance Review Boards (SARB). The training will be delivered in all 11 regions statewide subsequent to a readiness and need assessment currently underway.

**THE CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS:** have launched an initiative focused on reducing disproportionality and disparities in outcomes for children of color in the child welfare system through several public, private and non-profit partnerships in California. The partners in this work include the California Department of Social Services, the Casey Family Programs, as well as CSA and other stakeholders.

#### Education

**INCENTIVES:** One of CSA's most successful educational activities is related to use of incentives within our federal funding sources that invite local jurisdictions to increase their knowledge of DMC. CSA embedded a DMC focus within the Title V and Title II Formula Block\_Grants over the course of the last two years. Subsequently, and for the first time, CSA embedded, in the 2008 Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG), a DMC educational component. Our hope is that DMC education and awareness will be bolstered at pivotal decision points within the juvenile justice system throughout counties in California.

#### Support and Advocacy